

MAILS SOUTH.—Complaints have recently been made by the business men of this city, as well as those of Cincinnati, of great irregularity and delay in the transportation and delivery of the mails to and from New Orleans. Public sentiment charges that the Post-office Department was at fault in not having made contracts with the Memphis, Clarksville, and Louisville, and the Memphis and Ohio railroads, these roads forming a continuous line with the Memphis Branch and Louisville and Nashville railroads from Louisville.

Negotiations have been pending between the Post-office Department and Mr. Guthrie, as the representative of the entire line, for the transportation of mails from State Line to Memphis (there being contracts on the Memphis Branch to State Line), but the present condition of the roads from State Line to Memphis is such that it is impossible to make such connections as would secure the delivery of the mails as soon as it can be done either by the Louisville and Nashville via Nashville and Decatur, then on the Memphis and Charleston to Grand Junction, via Grenada, &c., to New Orleans, or by the Ohio and Mississippi and Central Illinois to Cairo, Columbus, and Mississippi Central, via Grenada, &c., to New Orleans.

Colonel Miller, the special agent of the Post-office Department, has recently made a personal investigation of the entire route, and his report is that, until the two roads from the State Line to Memphis are in a better condition, the department and the public cannot rely for the certainty and despatch of the mails over said roads, and therefore, on his recommendation, the route via Nashville and Decatur has been adopted for Louisville mails destined for New Orleans, and that of the Ohio and Mississippi Central, Illinois, Cairo, Columbus, etc., for mails for New Orleans from Cincinnati.

It is to be hoped that the road from the State line to Memphis may soon be put in thorough repair, as this road, with connections according to the present schedule, is some ten to twenty hours shorter than any other route from our city to New Orleans.

We can assure our business men that no effort or expense will be spared by the Post-office Department to afford these every facility in its power for the safe and most expeditious transmission of their mails South.

A GROCERY PLUNDERED—THE ROBBERS AT LARGE.—Upon entering a Fourth-street car, yesterday morning, we found ourselves surrounded by four of our alertest policemen.—Lieutenant Priest, Tom Slater, Tom Shanks and Carter Tiller. This circumstance at once elicited no big ideas of a big item. We had already breakfasted, but our appetite for a dish of good "local" was as fearfully greedy as a fortnight's abstinence could well excite. We knew it to be an uncommon thing for such a bunch of policemen to traverse their beats by rail, even when the mind stands at a mid-top depth, as at present, and we also knew that our knights of the club were unaccustomed to the habit of pleasure, riding in companies of four, so we settled right down with the assurance that something good had turned up. One or two queries elicited the news that the above officers had just been making a reconnaissance in the Southern limits for the purpose of overwhelming the scamp or scamps who, on Saturday night, robbed the proprietors of Herman Miller, opposite the old Oakland House, on the Seventh-street road. The policemen made a complete investigation of the affair, and found that the robbers had broken through the front door of the house, and removed a large quantity of meat and groceries, and fished from the drawer a sum of money and a watch. The whole plunder is valued at between one and two hundred dollars. Who the robbers were remain a mystery; but the police are well convinced that they are the same party who have been operating in the suburbs for some time past, and whose robberies we have noted. We hope the scoundrels may be brought to grief before they commit any further depredations.

HOUSE OF REFUGE—CHRISTMAS LEVEE.—Mr. Caldwell, the kind and considerate Superintendent of the House of Refuge, has set apart to-morrow (Christmas) as a day for the boys of the Reformatory School, when they may be visited by their relatives and friends. This invitation is extended to all the little inmates to cheer them with holiday offerings and witness their mode of life. A splendid Christmas tree has been erected for the reception of gifts, and we trust it may be loaded down with presents to gladden the hearts of the isolated children, and cause them for the nonce to forget their loneliness and bask in the smiles of bright-eyed mirth. No one having at heart the welfare of these refugee boys should forget to visit them to-morrow. We are glad to know that Mr. Caldwell will also permit the lads to devote another day this week to relaxation. The quiet walls of their prison-house will ring with shouts of mirth that the sweet liberty of youth alone can voice.

HOUSE OF REFUGE PARK.—For the information of our readers, we here insert the ordinance, lately passed in the General Council, providing for the disposal of the park attached to the grounds of the House of Refuge:

An ordinance to amend an ordinance, approved 2nd March, 1862, entitled "An ordinance to provide for the disposal of the park attached to the house and grounds of the Louisville House of Refuge, and for other purposes connected with the conveyance."—Approved 2d March, 1863.

THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE.—That so much of the ordinance, passed by the General Council, on the 2d March, 1863, as provides for the disposal of the park attached to the grounds of the Louisville House of Refuge, and for other purposes connected with the conveyance, is hereby repealed, and the same is to be substituted in its stead.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES.—Although the mud upon the street-crossings and sidewalks was at flood height yesterday, and walking, wading or floundering was supremely difficult and slippery, the various churches were well filled from the ranks of the devout. Such a getting to church we never did see. But the Christian character of our populace could not have been more nobly vindicated.

THE SAME.—James Phillips, mentioned in the Journal as one of the robbers of the penitentiary at Jeffersonville, is not the popular and reliable engineer of the Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis railroad, who happens to bear the same name. This excellent gentleman answers to the name, but is unwilling to answer for the sins of the culprit James P.

FREAKS OF A MADMAN.

He Rushes Through the Streets with a Knife, Stabbing at all He Meets.

He is Arrested, after Wounding Several Persons.

About the middle of the afternoon, Saturday, Third street, between Market and Jefferson, was thrown into quite a state of excitement by a madman, armed with a knife, frantically rushing upon everybody and anything in his path. It was but the work of a few minutes for him to clear the entire square of pedestrians. On inquiry we ascertained that his name was Joseph K. Brown, and that he was the son of a popular railway President. It is undetermined whether his remarkable conduct was the effect of a debauch, or the result of insanity from other causes. The first thing he used his knife upon was a horse attached to a milk-wagon, stabbing it near the hip, and producing a wound that proved fatal. He next met John Benninger, and plunged the knife at him, but fortunately he was too far from him to inflict serious injury, the knife only penetrating the clothing and puncturing the skin. At the corner of Third and Jefferson, he ran across Samuel Worley, and a fruit vendor, both of whom he knocked down. He then fled up Jefferson street to the Frankfort depot, closely followed by Officer Slater. Near the depot he met Officer Sweeney, at whom he stabbed, and who knocked him down. Here he was arrested by the two officers and taken to the First-street station-house. Subsequently he was released on \$200 bail to appear in the City Court this morning to answer any charge that may be preferred against him.

A MIDNIGHT MURDER.

An Old Man Assassinated in Bed—The Affair Involved in Mystery—Robbery Suspected to be the Motive.

For a long time we have been congratulating ourselves upon the fact that while our sister cities seemed overrun with crime, Louisville appeared to be entirely free from evil-doers. But our half-laudation has come to a sudden and terrible end. Murder in its most hideous form—midnight assassination—stalks our streets, and its victims are not only our own citizens, the aged as well as the young, the strong as well as the weak, but the stranger within our doors possesses no immunity from harm. The fiery-torment tragedy had scarcely been dropped off of conversation before the town was startled by the report, yesterday morning, that a most foul and unnatural murder had been perpetrated in the upper portion of the city during the preceding night. On Saturday afternoon, between 3 and 4 o'clock, George Ralston, alias Lord Isaacs, got into a difficulty on Fourth street near the burned lot where Schlich's Hotel stood, with a man named James C. Crowley. It seems that both were under the influence of liquor when Crowley kicked Ralston's dog. This led to a quarrel when Ralston drew a knife and cut Crowley in the left shoulder several times, but, fortunately inflicting no serious wound. Ralston was promptly arrested by Officer C. Grimes and put in the First-street station-house. Ralston was under heavy bail for cutting Mary Barr with intent to kill, and has been arrested repeatedly for all of the party crimes. His bail will stand him in the way of his release, and we hope a happy and joyful time. We cordially thank him for invitations to dine, and hope to present or represent at the second table.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HOTELS.—Miss Minnie Miller, National, United States, White Sulphur and Spanish Hotels, are among the most extraordinary places for presenting gowns with Christmas dinners such as have never been spread in the city on any occasion. The Spanish Hotel, which is the most popular, the severe depth of the dining room, the quiet atmosphere, the artistic arrangement of the room, the skill of the waiters, the choice of wines, and the general arrangement of the room, make it a most attractive place for a dinner. The Spanish Hotel, which is the most popular, the severe depth of the dining room, the quiet atmosphere, the artistic arrangement of the room, the skill of the waiters, the choice of wines, and the general arrangement of the room, make it a most attractive place for a dinner.

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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY PRENTICE, HENDERSON, & OSBORNE

Green street, between Third and Fourth.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Government Officials Implicated in the Whiskey Frauds.

Fire at Newport, Maine.

The President Does Not Sustain General Schofield.

No More Civilians to be Tried by Military Tribunals.

To the Western Associated Press.

New York, Dec. 22.

There is nothing new in the morning papers.

A ship arrived yesterday. She reports that she sighted one of the contestants yachts at daybreak on the 13th of December.

She could not be made out.

The committee for the investigation of frauds in the Revenue Department has adjourned not to reassemble till after the holidays.

The principal of the whole was the same.

The committee learned that gigantic frauds have been practiced in New York, and that Government officials are implicated.

They have also discovered that there are over 3,000 men employed at New York in the sale of barrels and private dwellings, where whisky is made for the purpose of evading the tax of \$2 per gallon.

The committee will visit the principal cities of the West and South.

The magnitude of the leak they are endeavoring to stop may be judged from the fact that, according to the census of 1860, the amount of whisky made in the United States in 1859 was 1,000,000 barrels.

No advertisements taken for a longer period than three months.

All advertisements, except for establishing accounts, must be paid for in advance.

Maximilian's private secretary was a passenger on the Corsois from Havana.

The Estafete, Bazaine's organ, says the recent rejoicings over the announcement that Max will be sent to the Crimea are the Chancery party. The Mexicans are disgusted with Max, and will submit again to his rule. Bazaine is anxious that Max should leave.

Max has been occupied by Corsois and a short time.

Caravajal has threatened Toscua, in the valley of Mexico, granting twenty-four hours for surrender.

The gunboat Winnebago has gone to Tampa with dispatches for Minister Campbell.

New York, Dec. 22.

The steamer Corsica arrived this morning. She brings Vera Cruz dates of the 6th and City of Mexico dates of the 2d.

The news is confirmed of the issuing of a proclamation by Maximilian that he will remain in Mexico.

The principal information in Mexico was that Max would go as soon as he could, and it is asserted that a portion of his baggage has arrived at Havana.

Washington, Dec. 22.

It is understood that the President has ordered the military to be on the戒备 in New York, before whom Dr. Watson was on trial for killing a negro, to be dissolved, and no more trials of civilians will be had before military commissions. This action is taken in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court in the habeas corpus case.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22.

Griffin Taylor, an old resident of this city, died at 3 o'clock this morning.

Messrs. Cramer & Williams' wagon and agricultural implements were destroyed by fire this morning. Loss \$1,000, insured for \$1,000.

MONTRAL, Dec. 22.

The commander of the militia writes to the Transcript, denying that the calling out of the detachment of troops at Streetsburg was a scare. He says it was justified by information received.

Two regiments have been armed with Springfield rifles.

Brooklyn, Dec. 22.

A fire at Newport, yesterday, destroyed the most of the business places of the place, including the Masonic Hall, Long Alley.

Large scenes of liquor were made yesterday in the saloons and stores of Brooklyn by the State authorities.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22.

The horses and mummification of the cotton market are still in full force, and stocks are accumulating, and Messrs. Hall & Long on Monday, will offer from \$100 to \$1000 at their usual rates.

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